



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

Michael S. Steele  
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Mary Ann Saar  
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PASSING OF OFFICER JEFFERY ALAN WROTEN** ***Four-year veteran of DOC was father of five***

Towson, Maryland (January 28, 2006) – Officer Jeffery Alan Wroten, a four-year veteran of the Maryland Division of Correction (DOC), was pronounced dead at the Washington County Hospital Center yesterday. The family of Officer Wroten requested that information regarding his death not be released until his children's mother had the opportunity to go home and inform their five children. The Wroten family decided the best way to honor the officer's memory was to allow his organs to be donated so that others may live. According to a family member, "Jeffery is our hero and this is the best way to honor him".

In a statement read at a press briefing held at the Washington County Hospital Center, DOC Commissioner Frank Sizer said, "It is with deep regret and sadness that the Division of Correction notes the passing of Officer Jeffery Alan Wroten. Officer Wroten fought gallantly for his life but ultimately lost the battle. As a result, we have lost a wonderful son, devoted father, nurturing brother, loving spouse, caring friend and a dedicated professional who enjoyed his work as a correctional officer. Our family is shattered, but not broken by the loss of this magnificent man. In the coming days we will rally together as a family and uplift each other as we deal with this tragic loss."

"Words cannot express how saddened our public safety family is upon learning of the loss of one of our own," said Mary Ann Saar, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. "Officer Wroten was known as a kind and decent man who cared deeply about his family and his colleagues at the Roxbury Correctional Institution where he worked. We will honor his memory and pray for his family."

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During the press briefing, DPSCS Director of Public Information, Mark A. Vernarelli, read the following statement on behalf of Governor Robert. L. Ehrlich, Jr.

*I would like to convey my deepest sympathies for the family and friends of Officer Jeffery Wroten. It is a sad day for the Maryland Division of Correction, which has lost one of its own and the citizens of Maryland, who have lost a good family man and officer dedicated to the protection of others.*

*Officer Wroten worked four years for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' Division of Correction, and during that time, he brought a sense of pride and dedication to a tough job. His fellow officers spoke highly of Officer Wroten, noting that he was a pillar of strength to others, always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. An outpouring of concern for the officer and his family has come from every corner of the state.*

*We are grateful to the Maryland State Police and all of the other law enforcement officers who assisted with the apprehension of the perpetrator and ongoing investigation of this heinous crime.*

*My Administration extends our prayers to the family of Officer Wroten, as Maryland has lost one of its protectors.*

Governor Ehrlich directed Secretary of State Mary D. Kane to order all Maryland State Flags to be flown at half-mast until the interment of Officer Wroten.

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Media Please Note: The family would like to thank everyone for their demonstrations of generosity and support during this difficult period. In addition they would especially like to thank the media for respecting their privacy while covering the story.